

# MONTENZUMA

OR THE  
CONQUEST OF MEXICO



FOR THE

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ORDER OF CINCINNATUS 1889



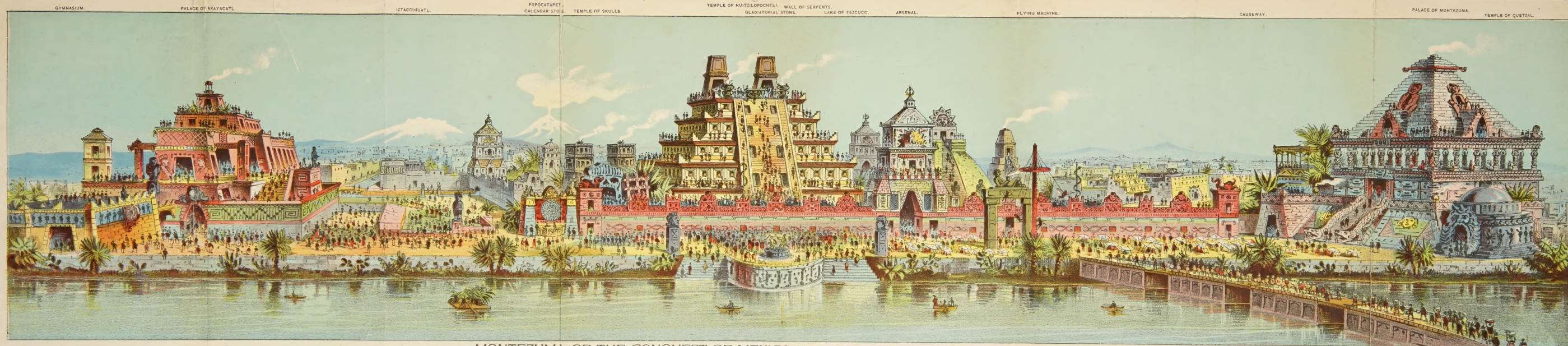


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# MONTEZUMA,

OR THE

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By the Order of Cincinnatus.

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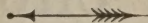
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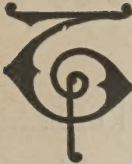
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## A Brief

## Description of Mexico

in 1519.

HE PERIOD of the discovery of America was still the age of chivalry. Arms was the only profession worthy of gentle blood—the only career for the high-mettled cavalier. To the hooded inmate of the cloister was left the literary toil, and to the humble burger and miserable serf were left the trades and the tillage of the soil.

The New World afforded a vast field for the adventurous, and many bold explorers penetrated into its unknown regions. Colonies were established, and many of the humble camp followers settled down to traffic with the natives and till the fruitful soil. Some daring adventurers, led by their Indian guides, had ventured into the interior of the Isthmus, and gazed on the waters of the Pacific. An expedition from Cuba, discovering the Gulf of Mexico and adjacent land, brought back glowing accounts of a wonderful Empire existing in the interior. Much information was gleaned from the natives on the coast in regard to the fabulous wealth and power of the great barbarian Empire, which proved, however, but meager accounts of the real magnitude and grandeur of Mexico when at last it was thrown open to the eyes of a wondering world.

This invincible nation was ruled by a despotic king, Montezuma, and his nobility. In the numerous cities were temples, palaces and public buildings of massive architecture. The people were industrious and skilled in the workmanship of gold and silver; they used a symbolical form of writing; they sustained armies, had a code of laws and a knowledge of astronomy. A powerful priesthood wielded a great influence over the people, and so closely woven with their daily life and institutions was their religion that a short account of it is necessary to fully understand the difficulties with which the conquerors met.

The Mexicans believed in a Supreme Being, in thirteen principals and about two hundred inferior deities, each of whom had a special day or festival. These gods were supposed to rule the elements, the occupations and affairs of man. Traces of a purer religion were to be found underlying the rites and mysteries of their idolatry, but so buried in the bloody sacrifices of human beings as to be forgotten in horror and disgust.

The greatest of the gods was the terrible Huitzilopochtli, the Mexican Mars. This War-God was the patron deity of Mexico, and the "teocallis" (temples) erected in his honor were the most magnificent of the public edifices. Hundreds of human victims were sacrificed on the altars of this blood-thirsty god in every city of the

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kingdom. The bleeding heart was torn from the quivering victim and offered on a golden spoon to the hideous idol by the priest, whose gory locks and blood-stained garments presented a loathsome appearance. To add to the horror of the ceremony, it was the custom of the people to prepare the remains of the sacrifice for a cannibal feast.

A far more interesting personage among their deities was Quetzalcoatl, God of the Air. According to the legend he was a white man, wearing a beard, who came from the East, and instructed the people in the use of metals, in agriculture, and in the arts of government. Having incurred the wrath of one of the principal gods, he was compelled to abandon the country. On taking leave of his followers he promised that his descendants would revisit them, and bidding them farewell he embarked in his little boat and disappeared on the great ocean. In this fabled hero the Christians afterwards beheld the Apostle St. Thomas, thus accounting for the glimpses of a higher and purer faith intermingled with the debasing idolatry of the people. The Mexicans looked forward confidently to the return of the deity, and this remarkable tradition, instilled in their minds by the priesthood, prepared the way for the Spaniards.

A general feeling seems to have prevailed during the reign of Montezuma that the fulfillment of the promise was near at hand. About this time Lake Tezcuco had overflowed its banks, flooding the streets of Mexico; one of the turrets of the great temple took fire without any apparent cause, and burned in spite of all efforts to extinguish it. The appearance of three comets and a strange light in the eastern sky caused the astronomers to predict the speedy downfall of the empire. These peculiar events, interpreted by the priesthood, strengthened the belief and fears of the superstitious people, and combined, with internal dissensions, to make the land a prey to the white race.

Such were the alluring accounts of the fabulous wealth and magnificence of this yet unexplored country that the Governor of Cuba resolved to fit out an expedition which should conquer the desirable land. He looked about for a suitable agent to command this arduous expedition. It was now that Hernando Cortez came forward, offering to contribute largely from his own wealth if he should be intrusted with the enterprise.

Cortez was a Spaniard, born at Medellín in 1485. He came of an ancient and respectable family, and was destined by his father for the law, a profession having great scope for the ambitious. However he displayed little fondness for books, and early showed an inclination for a life of adventure.

The highest spirits of the day found vent in the expeditions and discoveries in the New World, and thither he directed his way. When but nineteen years of age he bade farewell to his native land,

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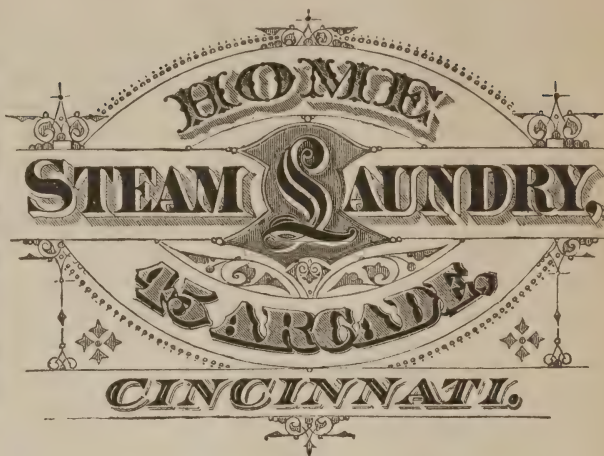
and after several years of wild and reckless adventure he finally settled upon an estate granted him by Valesquez, the Governor of Cuba. By industry he became, in a few years, master of considerable fortune, and when the gay Alvarado returned with the tidings of the great discovery he found himself in a condition to coöperate materially in fitting out an expedition, thus becoming Captain General of the "Armada."

Cortez was at this time thirty-three years of age; handsome, well formed, above medium stature, of pale, intellectual features, piercing dark eyes, and of frank and winning manners. He was temperate, indifferent respecting food, hardships and perils, and excelled in horsemanship and all manly sports. His manners, while frank and soldier-like, concealed a cool and calculating spirit, and, like Cæsar and Napoleon, he possessed a peculiar influence over human hearts.

Cortez had now obtained his dearest wish; no longer should he be condemned to a life of calm, uninteresting drudgery, but the wildest cravings of his ambition were about to be satisfied. Mighty destinies were in his hands; the whole world should marvel at his deeds; and, crowning all, it should be his heavenly mission to convert the benighted Indians to Christianity. Religion mingled its majestic power in the motives which inspired Cortez. However unjust the war might seem to others, to him it was a Holy War against the Infidel. Followers flocked around his standard of black velvet, emblazoned with a red cross, and bearing, in letters of gold, the motto in Latin, "Friends, let us follow the Cross, and under this sign, if we have faith, we shall conquer." Cupidity and avarice formed the motives of many of his followers, but the greater number who embarked in the enterprise were filled with chivalrous and devotional feelings, while the pious Father Bartholemi D'Olmedo, by his wise and benevolent councils, mitigated the sufferings and cruelties of war.

The importance given to Cortez by his new position and his increasing popularity gave Valesquez great uneasiness. He feared that the bold and dashing cavalier with increasing power would become a formidable rival, and therefore resolved to deprive Cortez of the command. The Captain General hearing of his peril, with the decision which marked his character, though the vessels were not prepared, secretly weighed anchor that night, much to the chagrin and annoyance of the Governor, who arrived in time to receive a farewell wave from Cortez. Landing at another point on the island he finished his preparations and set sail February 18, 1519, from Cuba, with his little army, to rend the veil which shrouded the mysterious regions of the setting sun.

Cortez had received instructions to look for some shipwrecked Spaniards, who were supposed to be in the vicinity of Yucatan. While coasting along the Southern Continent and islands, holding



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traffic with the natives, he instituted a search for the missing crew. Failing to find any trace of his unfortunate countrymen, he was about to sail, when a canoe was seen pushing from the shore, and to his astonishment a Spaniard, half-nude, came on board. Aguilar was the name of this man, and his story was strange and wonderful. Having been wrecked on the coast of Yucatan he had been made a prisoner, and, in seven years of captivity, had encountered many strange adventures, and had acquired a thorough knowledge of the language, manners and customs of the people. Cortez, appreciating the value of this knowledge, looked upon him as a heaven-sent acquisition to the expedition. Once more the little army set sail into the western waters, which seemed boundless, but at last coming to the mouth of the Tabasco River, of which Cortez had heard from former explorers, and for which he was seeking, they cast anchor, and part of the crew, with the chieftain, in small boats, ascended the shallow stream. Drawing near the shore the commander, through Aguilar, asked permission to land, but was answered by a clash of weapons and shouts of defiance. However, in a short though vigorous campaign of a week, Cortez succeeded in conquering the vast army of natives, and received from them an oath of allegiance to the King of Spain, and a propitiatory offering of twenty beautiful maidens, one of whom proved to be of invaluable service to Cortez. Marina had a peculiar and romantic career. Her father, a rich and powerful cazique, died while she was quite young. Her mother, marrying again, conceived the idea of securing Marina's rightful inheritance to a son of this second marriage. The girl was therefore secretly sold into Mexico, in this manner becoming familiar with the language and customs of that people. She was again sold to the cazique of Tabasco, who presented her with her companions to the Spaniards. She was in all respects an extraordinary woman; in person young and beautiful, her manners winning, and her mind of a superior order. She became a convert to Christianity and quickly mastered the Castilian tongue. Thus, through her interpretation, Cortez ascertained many important facts respecting the great Empire of Mexico.

The Spaniards having conquered Tabasco camped near the city, and sent an embassy of natives to inform Montezuma of their desire to have audience with him. At the expiration of eight days the Tabascans returned, accompanied by nobles of the Mexican court, bearing rich gifts, the beauty and exquisite workmanship of which excited the rapture and amazement of the Spaniards. The Emperor, however, desired the strangers to bear these royal gifts to their sovereign, but discouraged any visit from them by saying that the distance to his capital was too great, and the journey too perilous. Cortez, sending gifts, again renewed his entreaty for permission to visit Mexico. After ten days the ambassadors returned, again laden

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with magnificent presents, but a peremptory demand from the Emperor that they leave the country, as he would under no circumstance permit the Spaniards to approach the capital. Cortez, though exceedingly vexed, gave no outward token of his irritation, and replied courteously to the ambassadors, who retired with dignity.

The natives now withdrew their support and the Spaniards were compelled to rely on their own resources. Though much perplexed as to their future course, Cortez deemed it advisable to occupy his followers to prevent discontent, and decided to establish a colony. The city was founded and called "Villa Rica de la Vera Cruz" (The Rich City of the True Cross), and Cortez appointed Chief Magistrate. He assumed the position of Governor of a Colony, responsible only to his King, and by this bold act renounced all subjugation to the Governor of Cuba.

About this time a delegation of Totonacs, from a once powerful province, now subject to Mexico, sought an alliance with the Spaniards to aid them in breaking the yoke of Montezuma. It presented the longed-for opportunity, as it opened the way for a quarrel with the Aztec Emperor. Cortez was received by the Totonacs with great pomp, and to his unutterable delight he learned that one-half of the Mexican nation were dissatisfied with the heavy burdens of taxation, and the great number of human victims for sacrifice demanded of them by Montezuma. In such a condition of internal distraction did the Spaniards find the great Western Empire—rotten at the core, and ripe for conquest. By the aid of native allies the Spaniards pushed forward towards their goal, Mexico, intimidating some and conquering others. Everywhere spread the news of the great warriors and their deeds. The roar of their cannon and the might of their horses, both seen for the first time, spread dire consternation throughout the land. Montezuma, through superstitious fears, adopted a timid and conciliatory policy, sending quantities of the rarest and richest gifts, hoping thus to appease their desire for riches and insure their departure, but the dauntless cavalier pressed on.

Alarmed by the bold movements of their chieftain, a conspiracy was formed to seize one of the vessels and escape to Cuba. The conspirators being detected, were punished inexorably, and to prevent a repetition of such an attempt Cortez had the ships dismantled, and all but one scuttled and sunk. The Spaniards were horrified at this bold stroke, and felt that their destiny now indeed lay in the hands of their daring leader. Cortez, with forcible and winning speech, once more enthused his followers, and made vigorous preparations for his uninvited and forbidden visit to Montezuma. With thousands of his Totonac allies he started on the long and tedious march.

Cortez, always zealous, made vigorous efforts to convert the natives. With religious fervor his followers demolished the idols and

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forbade the atrocious sacrifices and the loathsome cannibal feasts. Father D'Olmedo, with great patience, dissuaded the Spaniards from using violence, saying, "We must wait till we can instruct their dark minds."

City after city, appalled by the tidings of the great strength of the terrible warriors who wielded the thunder and lightning of heaven, and who, with the dreadful war-horse could overtake the swiftest foe, sent into the Spanish camp most humble messages of submission.

Montezuma, whose spirit was now crushed, trembled in every fibre. He sent an embassy to Cortez, offering him four loads of gold for himself, one for each captain and a yearly tribute to the Spanish Sovereign, if he would turn back. Cortez, filled with delight at this indication of fear and weakness, pressed eagerly on.

The Spaniards entered the beautiful city of Mexico November 8, 1519. They were filled with amazement at the sight, which in a moment repaid all the toil of the cavaliers. Their long, weary marches over moor and mountain, their hunger and thirst, their labor and fatigue, battle and bloodshed and suffering, all were repaid in the one glance at the glorious city spread out before their enraptured eyes.

Montezuma, in regal splendor, with waving plumes, jeweled robes and obsequious attendants, received the Castilian adventurer with grace and dignity. The causeway was lined with people and the lake dark with boats, all eager to catch a glimpse of these supernatural beings who had, with their small numbers, overcome countless native foes.

Cortez, on being conducted to the palace assigned him, with his usual vigilance immediately fortified the quarters, guarding each avenue of approach with cannon. Day after day passed in the interchange of visits and entertainments. Cortez never forgot for a moment his great object of converting the heathen, but Montezuma was shocked and showed no disposition to abandon the cruel idolatry of his fathers. Cortez had now been for some time in the capital, and having been received with such hospitality, had no possible ground for war. He feared that the Mexicans, by familiarity, would gradually lose their awe of the White Strangers and fall upon them with resistless numbers. In this dilemma he resolved, by strategy, on seizing Montezuma, who was regarded with great veneration, almost amounting to religious adoration, by his subjects. As a reason for this arrest the Spaniards alleged that two soldiers of the company left at Vera Cruz had been slain by natives, and he demanded the person of the Emperor as hostage, to insure the safety of himself and followers. The Governor of the province was also demanded, and he, with some of his nobles, was burned as an example, by the stern Castilian. The bewildered monarch was compelled to take the oath

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of allegiance, Cortez at the same time extorting millions of dollars in gold and silver in the name of the Spanish sovereign.

Six months had now elapsed since Cortez had landed on the coast. Valesquez, the Governor of Cuba, indignant at the haughty assumption of Cortez, sent out a strong expedition to take possession of Mexico, and bring Cortez to Cuba, a prisoner, for punishment. Being informed of the arrival of his enemies at Vera Cruz, with seventy picked men marched secretly and rapidly to meet his Spanish foes. Alvarado was left in command of the strongly fortified encampment in the heart of the great metropolis. Cortez had cause to regret having left so impetuous a soldier in control. Hearing rumors of a conspiracy among the natives, Alvarado fell upon the Mexicans while they were celebrating one of their religious feasts, and put to death the flower of the nobility. This was too much for even the crushed spirit of the natives to endure, and notwithstanding their terror of horses, steel, and gunpowder, the city rose in arms.

Cortez, in the meantime, having overcome his countrymen by a sudden and unexpected attack, induced them all, by magnificent presents and persuasive speech, to enlist under his banner. But in the flush of victory the alarming news reached him of the insurrection in the capital. Collecting his forces, now greatly augmented by the newcomers, with their fresh horses and fire-arms, he hastened to the rescue of the besieged Spaniards. A fierce warfare now ensued; the Spaniards were driven to their quarters, and all supplies of food discontinued. Their position was desperate indeed, and starvation stared them in the face. In this extremity Cortez appealed to the captive Emperor, deploring the awful carnage which had taken place, and affirming that he wished to save the nation from utter destruction. Reluctantly the amiable monarch consented to interfere. Montezuma, clad in his imperial robes, appeared upon the walls, and suddenly all was hushed, the people kneeling before their captive King. Patiently and earnestly he plead for the Spaniards, but from the crowd rang out a voice, "traitor"; an arrow sped straight to the heart of the broken-spirited and crushed Emperor. From the highest teocalli came the strange sound of the great drum in the temple of the War-God. The natives, roused by the call from their God, now attacked the Spanish quarters with great fury, and, to add to the direful situation, a mutiny broke out in the camp. Cortez was forced to yield to the desire of his soldiers to flee, and with extraordinary energy he immediately constructed moving forts or towers, to be pushed through the streets on wheels, under the protection of which his soldiers could direct their fire with truer aim. A platform on the top of the structure could be let down as a bridge to the roofs of the houses where the natives took refuge, hurling stones and missiles on the Spaniards below. They also carried with them portable bridges, with which to cross the numerous canals that intersected the

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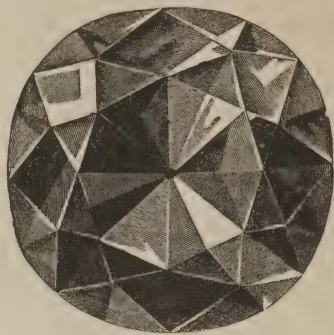
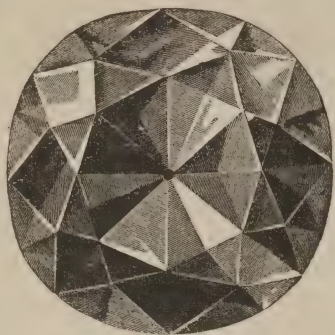


city, from which the bridges had been torn by the infuriated people. The perilous march now commenced; every inch of the way was contested; in many places they were surprised by swarms of the maddened natives, but with heroic courage the Spaniards beat off their assailants and finally reached a friendly province. The horrors of this "Noche triste" (dismal night), as it was ever called, were beyond description, and many of the Spaniards were slain or taken captive, a fate more to be dreaded than death.

After the death of Montezuma the Crown of Mexico fell to Guatamozin, a bold, energetic young man, who immediately commenced to repair the fortifications of the city, and to improve the rude weapons of warfare. He invited the aid of all the neighboring provinces to unite in a common cause against the white men, and, by the advice of the priests of idolatry, commenced the celebration of great feasts to win the favor of the dread War-God. Hundreds of captives were sacrificed, and the altars were kept reeking with the blood of the victims.

Despite the defeat and disaster which the Spaniards had suffered, the dauntless Cortez again determined to subjugate the Mexicans. Gathering his allies and encouraging his followers by his own bravery, he once more set out for conquest. Castilian arms and discipline proved triumphant everywhere, and at last the victorious army pitched their camp in sight of the capital city. From their commanding position they beheld the sacrifices on the teocallis, and by the whiteness of the skin of the victims they knew that some of their own unfortunate brethren were about to be slaughtered and the remains to form later a cannibal feast. The stupefied Spaniards beheld this horrible spectacle with sickening feelings, and with religious fervor determined that from those reeking altars should rise the blessed sign of the Cross, pronouncing the end of all human sacrifices, and a reign of peace. All thoughts of spoil and plunder were forgotten in the horror of these terrible sights, and but one idea seemed uppermost—the total destruction of the blood-stained idols and the idolatrous priesthood.

Cortez, having carried from the coast the useful parts of his dismantled ships, had constructed a fleet in the interior, which, to the amazement of the natives, he launched on the bosom of the lake which formed a great defense to the capital. With these great "white-winged birds," the improvements of civilized warfare, and the courage of his followers, he at last succeeded in overcoming the desperate Mexicans, and with waving banners and shouts of triumph, hurled from the teocallis the Mexican Gods, so long worshiped by the deluded people, and above the burning city waved the banner of Castile and the Cross of Christianity.



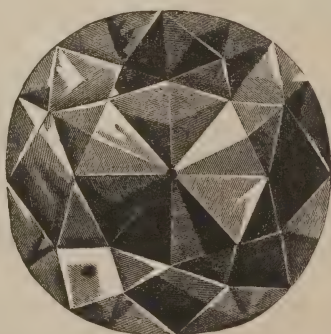
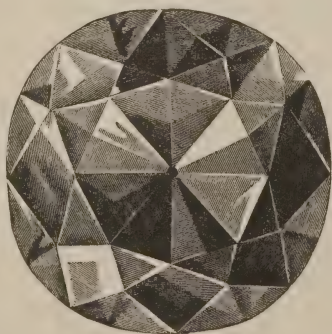
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# Prominent and Attractive Tableaux

THAT WILL BE PRESENTED DURING THE ACTION OF  
THE DRAMA OF

## The Conquest of Mexico.

### PART I.

#### THE CITY OF TENOCHTITLAN, OR MEXICO.

SCENE—In the foreground the Lake of Tezcuco, with the “chinampas,” or Floating Gardens, bridged by a causeway which connects the city with the main-land. To the right and left, Rocky Passes. In the great square, the “tianquez,” or Great Market. To the left, the Palace of Axayacatl and Gymnasium; to the right, the Palace of Montezuma. In center of square, the Gladiatorial and Calendar Stones, also Temple of Quetzaluatl to the right. Back of the square, the Wall of Serpents, with armory over the gate-way, above which towers the great Teocalli, or Temple of the War-God Huitzilopochtli, and Temple of Skulls. In the extreme distance the Volcano Popocatepetl, or Hill that Smokes, and the Iztaccihuatl, or White Woman.

ACTION—Life in the City of Mexico.

TIME—November 7, 1519.

The Great Market. Throngs of people pressing toward the market; traders come in from all parts of Mexico. Goldsmiths of Azcapozalco, potters and jewelers of Cholula, painters of Tezcuco, stone-cutters of Tenajocan, hunters of Xilotepec, fishermen of Cuitlahuac, fruiterers, mat and chair makers of Quahtillan, and florists of Xochimileo, chocolate and pulque sellers, all crying out their respective wares and bargaining with purchasers, slave traders; all is bustle and life. The causeway is thronged with people on their way to the city. Canoes come up the lake with marketing. The Floating Gardens.

#### THE FEAST OF QUETZAL.

Games now begin. Jugglers and dancing girls appear. Tight-rope walkers, runners, spear throwers, archers. Foot ball—throwing the ball through a hole in a stone similar to a mill-stone. Human monster and grotesque dance.

#### FLYING MACHINE.

A tall, straight tree, stripped of its branches; from the top hang four ropes supporting a square frame, to which are attached four other ropes which are twisted about the tree. Four men, dressed as great birds, mount to the top of the tree, where they fasten themselves to the ends of the ropes, then swing out into space. As they do this the frame is put into motion and they revolve about the tree;

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 "Handsome Little Mary," Lyons, . . . . . 40 cents.

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the ropes untwisting and their flights becoming wider and wider until they reach the ground.

#### BOAT RACE.

A fleet of canoes arrives, decorated with flowers; also the Royal Barge, with the Emperor. It has an awning of azure color, studded with stars of silver and gold, curtains embroidered with brilliant feather work. The barge is long and narrow, with figures elaborately and exquisitely carved on bow, sides and stern. Waving above the vessel is the Royal Banner, with the Coat-of-Arms of Mexico (a flashing eagle holding a serpent in its bill, and seated upon a cactus), wrought in gold on a field of violet. Twelve noblemen pull the oars of alternate blades of gold and silver, which flash in the sunlight at each sweep. The competitive boats get in line. The Emperor, rising from his embroidered coach, gives the signal upon the head of a drum. In an instant the blades strike the water and away go the boats—a shout arises from the Lake which is answered by those on land. The victor, Guatamozin, nephew of Montezuma, is presented with beautiful jewels by the Emperor. The Royal Barge leaves.

#### THE GLADIATORIAL STONE.

From the Place of Skulls the chanting priests appear with a Tlascalan prisoner. Soldiers arrive in the foreground, and form an arena or circle with their shields. Warriors fill the streets with flashing arms and gorgeous regalia. A Tlascalan prisoner is tied by the left foot to a ring in the gladiatorial stone; his body is naked save a girdle around his loins. An officer comes forward and gives the unfortunate victim a bright and heavy falchion of itzli, which he takes with dull indifference. An Aztec soldier now mounts the stone and in a moment deals a blow at the captive. The gladiator parries it with his blade, breaking the soldier's arm. Another mounts the stone and is likewise disabled. Six warriors are conquered in this manner, and according to the custom the Tlascalan warrior is set free. The fiendish mob, however, set up a shout of anger and disappointment. "Away with him! sacrifice him!" is echoed by a thousand tongues. Suddenly the great drum is heard, the keeper of the Temple rushes within the wall of the shields; his dress is in disorder, his hair and beard are fluttering in the air. Waving his hands wildly he cries, "Woe is Tenochtitlan! Quetzal, the unknown God, has arrived!"

#### THE SHOOTING STAR.

Spaniards are seen crossing the Volcano in the distance; terror seizes all the populace. The Volcano in eruption; one of the towers on the Temple catches on fire.

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## PART II.

TIME—November 8, 1519.

SCENE—Market Square moves away, displaying the great City of Mexico, Palaces of Montezuma and Axayacatl.

### CORTEZ' ENTRY INTO MEXICO.

Early morning; the sacred flames on the altars of Teocallis are dimly seen through the morning mist. The populace appear excited; all come out to meet the Spaniards.

Cortez and his troops are heard coming. Sounds of trumpets and drums. Spaniards seen coming down the Rocky Pass. Envoys appear before the Spaniards with presents from Montezuma, consisting of fine feather work, golden suns, etc. Marina, the Indian girl, interprets for Cortez. Cortez hangs a chain of cut glass around the ambassador's neck. The Spaniards are now in sight of the city, and are filled with amazement at the sight, which in a moment repays all the toil of the cavaliers for their long and weary marches over plain and mountain, their hunger and thirst, their labor and fatigue, battle and blood-shed and suffering—all was repaid in the one glance of the glorious city. Canoes went here and there on the water; Indians not content with gazing at the strangers from the boats, climb up the causeway, swelling the crowds which lined the sides of the roads. All astonished at seeing white men and horses for the first time, many thinking horse and rider one. Montezuma now appears, with numerous and noble attendants. Three nobles precede him, each holding in his hands presents and a golden rod, the insignia of the presence of their Sovereign. Montezuma, richly clad, is seated on a litter covered with plates of gold, which four nobles bear on their shoulders; covering him is a canopy elaborately embroidered. His dress was most magnificent; from his shoulders hung a mantle adorned with the richest ornaments of gold and precious stones; on his head a thin crown of the same metal, and upon his feet shoes of gold tied with leathern thongs, worked with gold and gems. Cortez, dismounting, advances and is about to embrace the majestic monarch, but the attendants, horrified at such familiarity being taken with their august ruler, hastily interfere to prevent so unpardonable a sacrilege. Marina interprets that Cortez has been sent by his Sovereign, the great Emperor of the East, to bear messages of greeting to Montezuma, the mighty Monarch of the West. Hereupon the latter offers costly presents and indicates a desire for their departure, but the Castilian most respectfully declined to return, stating that his King would not deem that he had properly discharged the duties of his office unless he had visited and spent some time in the mighty metropolis of the Western World. Finding that Cortez is determined to stay, the Emperor

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proceeds to escort him to the city, and the entry is one of great martial magnificence. The gorgeous standard of Castile, and all the armorial blazonry of the Christians is displayed; bright lances flash and sparkle in the sun, and the stirring notes of the trumpets bray thrillingly through the valley, as Cortez, with his little body of horsemen and infantry, pass gallantly along. The artillery's hoarse thunder saluted the city at their approach, while the bursts of smoke faded over the blue bosom of the lake. The baggage occupies the center, and the rear is closed by dark files of Totonac and Tlascalan allies. Upon these latter the hosts of Mexicans, who have come out to meet the Christians, cast deadly glances of hatred. Cortez and his invincible comrades are next lodged in the Palace of Axayacatl, built by the father of Montezuma. Cortez inspects his new quarters, and plants his cannon so as to command the approaches. In a precautionary manner he stations sentinels on the walls. They then celebrate their arrival by a general discharge of artillery, which reminds the inhabitants of the explosion of the great Volcano, and fills the hearts of the superstitious Aztecs with dismay.

#### CORTEZ VISITS MONTEZUMA.

Cortez, attended by Alvarado, Father D'Olmedo, Sandoval Ordez, Donna Marina, and five or six of the common soldiers, pays his respects to the Monarch. The Emperor receives Cortez kindly at his magnificent Palace. [*Grand Montezuma Ballet.*] He then conducts them to the great Temple and they ascend to the summit, the Emperor being carried up by Indian attendants. Montezuma shows them the altar stone of sacrifice, and the sanctuary of the idols, Huitzilopochtli, the Aztec War-God, and Tezactlipoca, the Supreme God. The priests, with their long black hair clotted with dry blood, the smooth stone floor spotted with gory stains, and three hundred hearts just hot from the victims fill the Christians with dismay. The soul of Cortez is roused. Turning to Montezuma he exclaims, "How can you, wise and powerful as you are, put trust in such a representative of the Devil? Let me place here the Cross, the emblem of the True Religion, and these detestable gods will vanish." Montezuma is shocked, and hurries his irreverent guest away. The Spaniards go to their quarters and convert one of the halls into a Christian chapel. Here the rites of the True Faith are celebrated, and the good Father D'Olmedo prays fervently for God's blessing upon His frail creatures of every name and nation.

#### ANXIETY OF CORTEZ.

He is perplexed—knows not what step to take next. Being treated with such great hospitality, he has no cause for war, but nevertheless has determined on conquest. He fears that the Mexicans will gradually lose their dread of the white men and fall upon them

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with resistless numbers. In this dilemma the bold Spaniard resolves to seize the person of Montezuma, who is regarded by his subjects with almost religious adoration. The Spaniards march to the Palace and ask audience with the Emperor, which is readily granted them. [*Spanish Drill and Tactics.*] Cortez alleges, as a reason for arresting him, the senseless pretext that two soldiers of the Company left at Vera Cruz had been waylaid by the natives and slain. Quauhpopoca, the Indian Governor in whose province the violence had occurred, is sent for. Obediently he comes, carried on a litter attended by his chiefs. Cortez is allowed to pronounce sentence, and dooms them all to be burned alive in the great court of the city, to set an example to the people. From the public arsenals are brought the arrows, javelins, and other weapons of warfare, to form an immense funeral pyre. Thus, while showing the terrible vengeance of the white man, he at the same time disarms the city. Hundreds gaze with awe upon the appalling spectacle as the Indian chieftains are burned to ashes. The helpless and bewildered Monarch is then compelled, with tears of anguish rolling down his cheeks, to take the oath of allegiance to the King of Spain, and fetters are fastened to his ankles. The conquest of Mexico seems achieved.

[*Spanish messenger appears down the Rocky Pass. Cortez, with a small body of soldiers, leaves for Vera Cruz.*]

### PART III.

NOTE.—Cortez has received information from Sandoval, whom he had stationed in Vera Cruz, the city established by the Spaniards on first landing, that eighteen ships and thirteen hundred men, with twelve pieces of artillery and eighty-five horses, had arrived upon the coast, under the command of Narvaez, who was to have commanded the ships which Cortez had brought over. The Governor of Cuba, indignant at the haughty assumptions of Cortez, had fitted out this strong expedition to take possession of Mexico, and bring Cortez home a prisoner for punishment. Seeing danger thickening around him on every hand, Cortez, with about one-third of his men marched rapidly to meet his Spanish foes, leaving the garrison with the artillery in charge of Alvarado—Tonatiuh, Child of the Sun, as he was called by the Mexicans on account of his golden hair.

TIME—May, 1520.

[*Wall of Serpents moves away, displaying the Temple Court.*]

#### THE FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS.

The festival is held in the court of the great Temple, in the immediate neighborhood of the Spanish quarters. The Caziques having asked permission of Alvarado to have the presence of Montezuma, he refuses it, but allows them to celebrate the feast on condition that no human sacrifices are made, and that the populace attend unarmed.

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Multitudes of female figures are seen wending their way, with burdens of flowers, toward the rich city of the Aztecs, in snowy dresses gathered gracefully around them, their baskets of bright blossoms in hand or on their heads, hurrying to join the throng who are already astir around the grounds of the great Temple. The myriads of flowers fill the whole atmosphere with a delicious combination of exquisite odors. They decorate the streets with long boughs which over-arch the highway, forming a continuous bower, festooned with wreaths of creamy buds. When the stream of people has somewhat diminished in volume, the Grand Master of Ceremonies begins to collect the masses into a body, and forming them into an immense line, of a width sufficient to fill the street, they begin to move forward under the guidance of proper marshals, who are distinguished by white staffs surmounted by scarlet crests of long and graceful feathers. Pipes, clarions and drums bray a consonant harmony to the hundred voices of the minor music as they march. The high-priest leads the way in his scarlet robes, with his long plaited hair hanging behind him. After him follows other priests in robes resembling monkish gowns, then the Temple virgins in spotless white. The Grand Master of Ceremonies next appears wearing a loose mantle of sable; upon his neck a cape or collar of brilliants, coming to a point over his breast, glittering with superb and flashing jewels. Over this his raven beard falls in a mass; upon his head is a mitre of deep crimson with gold rim, his black locks hanging on his neck. Next to the Grand Marshal come the professors of colleges and schools, then lawyers, officers of government, men of science, mathematicians, astrologers, soothsayers; after these follow the nobility, dressed magnificently, with great quantities of jewels, borne by slaves in palanquins with canopies of flowers. Youths and maidens of the school with flowers and garlands, music playing, banners flying—the procession now forms itself in order for the Grand National Dance. Lines, crosses, and squares are formed within the great circle. The Grand Master, stationed on the wall in full view of the people, with a white rod, signals for the music to begin. Circles are formed of flowers laid in great wreaths upon the smooth flags, people dancing within them. The Master of Ceremonies leads the Queen of Flowers to a throne covered with flowers in the center of the court-yard. She is arrayed in a light gauze-like garment of pure white with bright blue bands and borders; around her neck a chain of brilliants clasped. Over her head is a canopy cloth, studded with silver stars. Four females wave feather fans. The whole assembly pass before her, each laying a flower at her feet. At this moment Alvarado and his soldiers, who had been witnesses of the feast, come galloping into the court-yard with their swords. Ceremonies cease. The Spaniards, suspecting a conspiracy among the nobles to exterminate the invaders, fall upon them and hew down, without proof of

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their treachery or a touch of remorse, the unarmed, unprotected people. Some flee to the gates, but are caught on the long pikes of the soldiers; others try to scale the temple stairs, but meet the same fate. On this day fell the flower of the Aztec nobility.

#### **CORTEZ ARRIVES ON THE CAUSEWAY.**

NOTE.—Having conquered Narvaez in the darkness of night, Cortez induces his soldiers to enlist under his banner. Thus reinforced with fresh men, horses, cannon and ammunition, they are now approaching Mexico.

The infamous butchery is too much for even the crushed spirit of the natives to endure, and, notwithstanding their terror of horses, steel and gunpowder, the city rises in arms. Alvarado sends a messenger to Cortez, beseeching the Commander to hasten if he would save them and keep his hold on the capital. The Mexicans attempt to force the walls and overwhelm the garrison with a tempest of missiles. Suddenly the trumpets are heard. Cortez is approaching. The Mexicans desist from active hostilities and convert their operations into a blockade. But how different is the scene from that presented on his former entrance. No crowds line the roads, no boats swarm on the lakes; now and then a single piroque is seen, like a spy, watching their movements. A death-like silence broods over the scene. Cortez rides moodily at the head of his battalions. To dispel his gloomy reflections he orders his trumpets to sound, and the shrill notes, borne across the waters, tell the beleaguered Spaniards that succor is at hand. They answer by a joyous peal of artillery, which seems to give a momentary exhilaration to the troops. Quickly crossing the causeway, Cortez and his army are soon within the walls of the Imperial City. They reach the great gates of the Palace of Axayacatl which are thrown open, and Cortez and his veterans rush into the cordial embrace of their companions in arms. Cortez is indignant when he hears the story of the massacre, and severely rebukes Alvarado. Suddenly the Mexicans renew the contest with demoniac fury, and as they draw near the enclosure the Aztecs set up a hideous yell, followed by a tempest of missiles, stones, darts and arrows. The Spaniards, waiting until the foremost columns have arrived, then discharge their artillery, mowing down the people with arquebuses. The Mexicans, though familiar with the report of these fire-arms, as they had been harmlessly discharged on a few occasions, had no idea of their deadly power, and stood aghast, with bewildered looks, at the murderous work, staggering under the fury of the fire. The bold barbarians, rallying with a fierce cry, rush over the prostrate bodies of their comrades. A second and a third volley checks their career, but others press on, throwing out clouds of arrows. They attempt to scale the parapet, but are shot down by unerring marksmen within. They next try to effect a breach by battering the wall with heavy timbers. They try



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to set fire to the Christian quarters by shooting burning arrows into them. Some temporary quarters within the walls take fire, which is only checked by throwing down part of the wall, thus laying open a formidable breach. Cortez sallies forth at the head of his cavalry, supported by a large body of infantry and Tlascalans. The Mexicans are tramped down under the horses' feet and cut to pieces with broadswords. The Aztecs take refuge behind a barricade of timber, and, rallying, make a gallant stand. It is a conflict of the European with the American, or civilized man with the barbarian. The Spaniards are saluted with showers of missiles from the terraces of the houses, and are driven back into their fortress. The natives fill the air with shrieks of defiance and rage. They cry, "The gods have delivered you into our hands." "Huitzilopochtli has long cried for his victims." "The Stone of Sacrifice is ready, and the knives are sharpened."

Cortez being wounded in the hand has his shield tied to his arm. In this extremity he appeals to the captive Montezuma to interfere and save the nation from utter destruction. Reluctantly the monarch consents. The loud roar and tumult of battle is suddenly hushed as Montezuma appears in a conspicuous place, holding aloft in his right hand the golden scepter, and addresses his people. "Why do I see my people here in arms against the Palace of my Fathers? Is it that you think your Sovereign a prisoner, and wish to release him? If so, you have acted rightly; but you are mistaken. I am no prisoner. The strangers are my guests. Return to your homes; lay down your arms. Show your obedience to me who has a right to it." As Montezuma announces himself a friend of the detested stranger, the indignation of the populace knows no bounds. Guatamozin, the Emperor's nephew, comes forward, and with a cry of "Traitor!" shoots an arrow straight at the monarch's heart. A cloud of stones and arrows descend on the spot where the royal train is gathered. The Spaniards appointed to protect his person have been thrown off their guard by the respectful deportment of the people during their lord's address. They now hastily interpose their bucklers, but too late, for Montezuma has been wounded by three of the missiles. The fatal barb has pierced the pale monarch, and he falls into the arms of the courtiers in attendance, who hastily bear him out of sight to die. The Mexicans, shocked at their own sacrilegious act, experience a sudden revulsion of feeling, and setting up a dismal cry, disperse panic stricken in different directions. It is, however, but momentary, as they soon return and again the roaring din of battle commences. Cortez now summons his chiefs to a parley. He stands on the wall, the beautiful Marina as interpreter by his side. "If you do not submit," he says to the people, "I will lay the whole city in ashes, and every man, woman and child shall be put to the sword." They answer defiantly, "The bridges are broken

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down and you cannot escape." Once more they attack with a storm of arrows and javelins.

#### EXPULSION OF THE SPANIARDS FROM MEXICO.

Mutiny now breaks out in the Spanish camp, and Cortez prepares to evacuate the city. They construct forts or towers, called Mantas, to be pushed through the streets, under the protection of which the soldiers could make their march, and accomplish its mission. The army then commences its perilous march through the smoky, gory streets. They load themselves down with equipage, heavy masses of gold and ponderous riches which have from time to time fallen into their hands. The night is dark; Cortez leaves Alvarado to bring up the rear, and thus they move silently under cover of the gloomy night. They have reached the causeway and Cortez, with his usual foresight, having provided portable bridges, makes use of one here. Suddenly the huge drum in the Temple of the War-God sounds forth its dismal sound. The High Priest from the desolate Temple calls forth, "To arms! to arms!" Cortez' army presses on in dismay and reach the second bridge, but when he sends back for the portable bridge he finds that it has become imbedded so tightly into the stones and earth by the heavy artillery passing over it, that it is impossible to dislodge it. Frightful disorder follows, and in the midst of the confusion the thronging Aztecs fall fiercely upon the Christians. The combatants cling to each other, fighting, and fall entangled into the canal. The chasm is clogged up with the fragments of artillery, baggage wagons, dead horses, the bodies of the dead and wounded Spaniards and natives. All the plundered gold and riches, all the cannons, etc., were either sunk in the lake or floating upon its surface. The water is alive with boats filled with dusky warriors showering missiles at the Christians. Cortez and his companions are compelled to plunge into the lake. Alvarado stands on the brink a moment, hesitating what to do; the hostile canoes now swarm around the opening. Setting his long lance firmly in the wreck which strews the bottom of the lake, he springs forward and clears the wide gap at a leap. The Aztecs gaze on in stupid amazement, exclaiming, "Tonatiuh!" A few only escape and not a musket remains. As Cortez gazed upon his feeble band of exhausted, torn and bleeding soldiers, he sits down under a large tree and weeps bitterly. Gathering up his discomfited men, they continued their flight. Ever after, this was called by the Spaniards "Noche Triste" (melancholy night).

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## PART IV.

TIME—December, 1521.

NOTE—Guatamozin, the nephew of Montezuma, is now Emperor. He immediately, with great vigor, fortifies the city anew, recruits and drills his armies, now familiar with the weapons and tactics of European warfare. Cortez has also gathered recruits from the Spanish camp in Vera Cruz and his Tlascalcan allies, and prepares for a new campaign. He has already conquered many Indian cities, and others have tendered their allegiance. Cortez has caused Martin Lopez to build brigantines, which, by taking apart, he has transported to the interior.

[*Move Wall of Serpents—R. and L.*]

### THE HUMAN SACRIFICE.

The multitude is wending its way to the Temple. The long file of priests and warriors march to the flat summit, with several men stripped to the waist, who, by the whiteness of their skin, are recognized as Spaniards. The victims for sacrifice are urged along by blows. On reaching the summit the unfortunate captives are stretched out one after the other on the great Stone of Sacrifice, the warriors dancing to the chanting of the priests. On the convex surface of the stone the victim's breast is heaved up conveniently for the diabolical purpose of the priestly executioner, who cuts asunder the ribs by a strong blow with his sharp knife of *itzli*, and thrusting his hand into the wounds tears out the heart which, hot and reeking, is deposited on the golden censor before the idol. The body of the slaughtered victim is then hurled down the steep stairs of the Pyramid to the savages below, who soon prepare it for a cannibal feast, which completes the abominable ceremony. At this moment the Spaniards arrive and gaze stupefied on this horrible spectacle. [*Sun Ballet.*] The Mexicans light beacon fires on the approach of the cavaliers, and the waters are again alive with canoes of the natives, Cortez conveys his troops across the lake in the brigantines, not daring to risk the fatal causeway. The Spanish fleet, with great white sails, darts through the water, overturning the small boats of the natives, filling the lake with the wreckage of the canoes. The desperate natives blockade the causeway, but the soldiers spring to land and clear the barricades, thus making room for part of the army. The General now causes the heavy guns to be brought up and opens a lively cannonade. They drive the enemy along the street, toward the large square in front of the Temple, a familiar spot to the Spaniards. In the Palace of Axayacatl no vestige now remained of the Cross which they had erected, but a new effigy of the terrible War-God had taken its place. The Spaniards soon destroy the image. The Aztecs, indignant at this outrage perpetrated before their eyes, gather courage, and with a yell of horror throw themselves upon the Spaniards, at the same time they rain a rattling shower of stones, etc., from the terraced roofs upon the invaders. The Spaniards seem

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lost, when suddenly the sound of galloping horses is heard and a body of cavalry comes to the rescue. Cortez desires to spare the inhabitants, but they refuse to come to terms, and seem bent on their own extermination. The Spaniards first destroy their former barracks. Torches and fire-brands are thrown into the lower part of the building, which speedily takes fire, and running along the inflammable wood-work of the interior, rapidly spreads, enveloping the upper regions of the vast pile, till the supports give way and the massive structure falls, midst clouds of dust and ashes, with a crash. Suddenly the horn of Guatamozin, the sacred symbol, heard only in seasons of extraordinary peril, sends forth a long and piercing note from the summit of the great Temple. In a moment the flying Aztecs wheel about and turn on their pursuers. Six of their number, crying "Malinche," the name by which Cortez was called by the natives, rush upon Cortez and make a violent effort to drag him into their boat, but his faithful followers soon dispatch his assailants. The Aztecs next throw heads of the Spaniards at them, shouting "Malinche," but the cavaliers give no credence to the words of the enemy. Again the sound of the great drum is heard, recalling to the Spaniards the fearful scenes of the "Dismal Night." An unearthly yell is heard from the top of the Temple, and the Spaniards are struck dumb with horror at seeing the ghastly heads of their fellow Christians displayed by the Aztecs. The Spaniards now drive the enemy up the heights of the Pyramid, Cortez waving the banner of Castile, and reaching the summit a fierce encounter follows in mid-air. The slain are pitched headlong down the sides of the Pyramid. They complete the work by firing the sanctuaries, the fires serving as beacon lights for friend and foe, and placing the Cross, the emblem of Christianity, and the proud banner of Castile in place of memorials of Aztec superstitions. The War-God is flung headlong down from the heights; the Aztecs, horror stricken, break forth into piteous lamentations at the destruction of their deities, upon whom they have relied for protection. The Emperor Guatamozin, by advice of his people, endeavors to escape in a boat and fly to distant provinces, but the unfortunate monarch is captured in the attempt. However, his attendants throw the Imperial treasures, which he is carrying away, into the lake. A tremendous storm, such as is seen only in the tropics, now bursts over the dismantled city. The thunder shakes the burning teocallis, and the lightning wraps the whole scene in a ghastly glare. To add to the terror and dismay, Popocatepetl vomits out a crimson stream of lava and fire, illuminating the dreadful wreck of the ruined city with a strong, unearthly gleam. Thus ends the Empire of the Aztecs, whose rapid rise and brilliant existence closed with the most disastrous downfall and complete overthrow that ever befell a nation of the earth.

**PROGRAMME.****Part First.****OVERTURE.**

Market Scenes in Mexico.  
 Games, etc.  
 Royal Barge and Canoe Race.  
 Gladiatorial Combat.  
 The Great Drum.

**Part Second.**

Moving Market Scene.  
 Cortez' Entrance City of Mexico.  
 Montezuma Ballet.  
 Spanish Chorus.  
 Montezuma made prisoner.  
 Caziques burnt at the stake.  
 Cortez, with part of army, leaves for Vera Cruz.

**Part Third.**

Festival of Flowers.  
 Massacre of the Aztecs.  
 Mexicans attack Garrison.  
 Cortez to the rescue.  
 Death of Montezuma.  
 Battle on the Causeway.  
 Alvarado Leap.  
 Noche Triste, or, Melancholy Night.

**Part Fourth.**

Human Sacrifice.  
 Royal Sun Ballet.  
 Arrival of Spanish Brigantine, with Spanish Army.  
 The Horn of Guatamozin.  
 The Great Drum once more.  
 Battle of the Pyramid.  
 The Tempest.  
 Eruption of Volcano of Popocatepetl.  
 Destruction of the City of Mexico  
 And Fall of the Aztec Empire.







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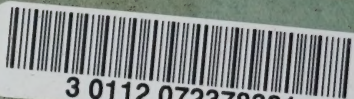
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